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REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in the present Application. Claims 14-19 have been withdrawn from consideration, Claim 9 has been canceled, Claim 1 has been amended, and no claims have been added, leaving Claims 1-8 and 10-13 for consideration upon entry of the present Amendment. The Specification has been amended to correct certain typographical errors as described below.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation "wherein the blending involves heating the polymeric resin to a temperature greater than its glass transition temperature or to a temperature greater than its melting temperature." Support for this amendment can at least be found in Claim 9 as originally filed as well as in Paragraph [0039] as originally filed.

No new matter has been introduced by these amendments or new claims. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Amendments to the Specification

Paragraph [0027] has been amended to correct a typographical error wherein the term "functional" has been amended to "functionalized."

Paragraph [0030] has been amended to correct a typographical error wherein the term "nanotubemore" has been amended to "nanotube more."

Paragraph [0033] has been amended to correct a typographical error wherein the term "carbon" has been amended to "Carbon."

The amendments were solely to correct typographical errors and not for reasons relating to patentability.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-3, 5-8, and 11-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103, as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,334,327, Creehan. Claims 4 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,445,327 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,591,382, Nahass et al. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

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Applicants gratefully acknowledge that the Examiner has indicated that Claim 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. (Office Action dated January 12, 2006, page 4). Accordingly, Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitation recited in Claim 9, and Claim 9 has been canceled. Since Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the limitation of Claim 9, the aforementioned § 103 rejections are now rendered moot.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

It is believed that the foregoing amendments and remarks fully comply with the Office Action and that the claims herein should now be allowable to Applicants. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection(s) and rejection(s) and allowance of the case are respectfully requested.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 50-1131.

Respectfully submitted,

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